

276850

AARP® Real Possibilities
South Carolina

1201 Main Street, #1720 | Columbia, SC 29201
1-866-289-5655 | Fax: 803-251-4379 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/sc | twitter: @aarpsc | facebook.com/aarpsc

June 26, 2018

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire
Chief Clerk & Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Office of Regulatory Staff's Petition for an Order Requiring Utilities to Report the Impact of the
Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
Docket No. 2017-381-A

Dear Ms. Boyd:

AARP South Carolina, by way of this letter, signals our support of the Office of Regulatory Staff's position in the above referenced docket. It is essential that the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("Tax Act") flow promptly to our members and their families as they struggle to pay high utility bills.

AARP SC urges the Public Service Commission of South Carolina to reaffirm the effective date of January 1, 2018, established in Commission Order No. 2018-308, as the date from which public utilities in South Carolina should track and defer the effects resulting from the Tax Act into a regulatory liability account.

While this action alone would be a significant benefit to all energy users in South Carolina, we would additionally ask the Commission to definitively rule on South Carolina ratepayers' right to receive these benefits in 2018. More than 100 large utilities across the nation have already passed the intended savings onto their consumers voluntarily, or as a result of utility commission orders.

We urge the PSC to join the other states that have already prioritized consumers by ensuring utilities no longer collect rates that are based on a corporate tax level of 35%, even though that tax rate is now 21%. This was a dramatic and unusual change in taxation, and there is no reason for unreasonable delay or for the interjection of unrelated issues into this matter.

We concur with ORS's request that the utilities identified by the Commission in Order No. 2018-308 should be required to immediately report their estimated savings under the Tax Act to you and ORS. We further believe that it is reasonable for these utilities to be ordered to return their windfall under the Tax Act to ratepayers and to file revised tariffs incorporating these savings.

RECEIVED

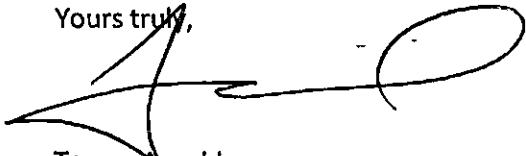
JUN 27 2018

PSC SC
MAIL / DNS

Real Possibilities

High utility rates are a financial burden on all South Carolina citizens. It is even more onerous for those on fixed incomes or only Social Security. Ratepayers need relief, especially for those on low income, fixed income and otherwise vulnerable households.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Arnold', with a large loop at the end.

Teresa Arnold
State Director